

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2018

Mr. Douglas W. Lamont
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Lieutenant General Semonite
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Lamont and Lieutenant General Semonite:

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act authorized the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to establish a pilot program to use the material from dredging activity to reduce storm damage, promote public safety, restore habitat, enhance shorelines, promote recreation, and reduce disposal costs. Section 1122 also establishes regional beneficial use teams, composed of the Corps and other state, local, and federal agencies, to identify and help implement ten projects for the beneficial use of dredged material.

We write to support inclusion of the Crab Bank Seabird Sanctuary project in the ten projects authorized in this Act. This project would take sand from the Charleston Harbor navigational channel and create seven to thirty acres of habitat for birds, which support recreational-dependent economies in my district. This project has multiple benefits, including maintaining the navigation channel, cost-effectively disposing of dredged material, and restoring habitat. In addition, this project has been permitted and could quickly serve as a demonstration of the Corps' best practices to maximize the beneficial use of dredged material.


In addition, we would appreciate it if your staff could update our staffs on the process and timing of the Corps' guidance to implement Section 1122 of WIIN, including information on opportunities for public comment and the composition of the regional beneficial use teams. Please contact Max Fenkell at max.fenkell@mail.house.gov to set up a briefing.

Thank you for your work in implementing this important section of WIIN and for your consideration of our request to include Crab Bank Seabird Sanctuary as one of the ten pilot projects. This is a common sense project that makes economic sense for the Corps and provides tourism and recreational benefits for our constituents.

Sincerely,


Mark Sanford
Member of Congress


Tom Rice
Member of Congress


Ralph Norman
Member of Congress